

House Bill 2
Montana Arts Council
NP-8 – Database Re-Write – OTO

Proponent Testimony by Jeff Brandt, Deputy CIO,
Information Technology Services Division (ITSD)
Department of Administration

Before the
House Education Committee
January 9, 2007

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Jeff Brandt, Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO), Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), within the Department of Administration. ITSD provides information technology (IT) services to State agencies.

ITSD provides Local Area Network (LAN) staff support and computer file storage for the Arts Council. In addition, we have assisted them in repairing their existing database on a number of occasions. At the request of the Arts Council, ITSD prepared a cost estimate to replace their existing database.

Their current database is over ten years old. Without their own computer programmer, the agency has relied on a variety of programmers and other staff to work on the database. Unfortunately, the result is a system that is prone to failure. In addition, in the years since the database was originally developed, a number of new requirements have emerged limiting the database in providing the agency with a system that supports their daily needs.

ITSD would replace the existing system with a new database programmed using modern software techniques and database program. In addition, the database will be upgraded to provide a number of needed enhancements, including updated forms and reports, contact information, historical budget data, payment history, and grant recipient and folklife data. The new database will enable the Arts Council to consolidate a number of spreadsheets and text documents into a single computer system. It will improve customer service, data quality, and make a number of reports much easier to produce.

I will be available for questions.

Thank you.